

## **FACT SHEET—What The Health Care Bill Means For You:**

- ***Provides coverage to 32 million uninsured Americans*** (effectively covering 94% of the country) and lowers rising health care costs which are increasingly unaffordable for families, businesses, and the federal government. It will strengthen and improve Medicare and Medicaid.
- ***Reduces the national deficit*** by \$143 billion over the next ten years, and an estimated \$1.2 trillion the following decade. It also improves the current reimbursement structure so that payments to health care providers are based on the quality of care they provide rather than volume.
- ***Empowers patients and their doctors*** to make critical health care decisions instead of the insurance companies.

### **IMPROVES AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY OF CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS**

- Bans insurance companies from dropping you if you get sick or denying you coverage due to a preexisting condition.
- Creates *optional* health insurance exchanges to allow for a more competitive marketplace where individuals and small businesses can purchase health care coverage the way many big businesses do today.
- Creates a new insurance oversight authority to oversee health insurance premium increases and make sure they are justifiable and not arbitrary.

### **STRENGTHENS MEDICARE AND MEDICAID**

- Strengthens Medicare by adding to its solvency and closing the “Donut hole” to provide greater prescription drug coverage for seniors.
- Improves Medicare coverage benefits for primary care services.
- Provides free annual wellness and preventative care visits and eliminates out-of-pocket co-pays for Medicare.
- Increases funding to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which covers 5 million otherwise uninsured children in low income families.
- Increases payments to primary doctors in Medicaid.

### **INVESTS IN OUR HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE**

- Invests in new doctors, nurses, and providers to help address the critical shortage in rural underserved areas like the Central Valley. Specifically, provides \$1.5 billion for scholarships and loan repayment programs to expand the health care workforce and incentivize doctors to serve in rural areas.